

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Washington
COUNTY:	King
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	

KI 244

## 1. NAME

COMMON:

King Street Station

AND/OR HISTORIC:

## 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

3rd South and South King

CITY OR TOWN:

Seattle

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

#7 - Hon. Brock Adams

STATE

Washington

CODE

53

COUNTY:

King

CODE

033

## 3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____
--	--	--	--	---

## 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

Great Northern Railway

STREET AND NUMBER:

175 E. 4th Street

CITY OR TOWN:

St. Paul

STATE:

Washington

CODE

53

## 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

King County Auditor's Office

STREET AND NUMBER:

County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN:

Seattle

STATE

Washington

CODE

53

## 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

Municipal Art Commission List of Historic Buildings

DATE OF SURVEY:

☐ Federal☐ State☐ County☒ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

Municipal Art Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:

Seattle Municipal Building

CITY OR TOWN:

Seattle

STATE:

Washington

CODE

53

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:	Washington
COUNTY:	King
ENTRY NUMBER	
DATE	

FOR NPS USE ONLY

## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION



Excellent



Good



Fair



Deteriorated



Ruins



Unexposed

(Check One)



Altered

(Check One)



Unaltered

(Check One)



Moved



Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The King Street Station is a red brick masonry structure with terra cotta and cast-stone ornamentation. It has a tile roof. The tower design is derived from the original campanile in the Piazza de San Marco in Venice, Italy. The building is rectangular with the tower to the right when facing the front.

The station rises above the tideflats upon which the railroad tracks are located. Entrance was on the upper level, away from the bustle and confusion and even disorder of the trains. Yet, taxis and cars can deliver passengers to the lower train level.

The interior was very high-ceilinged with massive columns. It has been remodeled but still gives an airy feeling to the huge waiting room on the lower level.

The tower is a fine foil for the solid squat building and also a fine contrast to the Union Depot in its squareness to the east.

The tower image is repeated in the L.C. Smith Tower to the north in the financial district. The two complement each other well.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## SIGNIFICANCE

## PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian☐ 16th Century☐ 18th Century☒ 20th Century☐ 15th Century☐ 17th Century☐ 19th Century

## SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1906

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Aboriginal☐ Education☐ Political☐ Urban Planning☐ Prehistoric☐ Engineering☐ Religion/Phi-☐ Other (Specify)☐ Historic☐ Industry☐ Philosophy☐ Agriculture☐ Invention☐ Science☐ Architecture☐ Landscape☐ Sculpture☐ Art☐ Architecture☐ Social/Human-☐ Commerce☐ Literature☐ Italian☐ Communications☐ Military☐ Theater☐ Conservation☐ Music☒ Transportation

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The King Street Station built in 1906, was designed by architects Reed and Stem. The campanile was derived from the original campanile in the Piazza de San Marco in Venice, Italy.

Northern Pacific had decided to terminate its transcontinental line in Tacoma, Washington, in 1873. Seattle made many attempts to build its own branch connection to that line but all ultimately failed.

In the 1890's, Northern Pacific was under much financial stress and was part of much litigation. A new corporation was formed in 1896, and Charles S. Mellen became president. Northern Pacific acquired the Seattle, Lake Shore and Eastern railroad with lines from Seattle to Sumas and Snoqualmie Falls. Seattle finally was the terminus of a transcontinental railroad.

In this same period, James J. Hill decided to extend the Great Northern Railroad to the coast and build up the trade to the Orient by joint use of rail and ship. He extended his railroad over a northern route to near Everett and so came into Seattle from the north along the waterfront. Operation of Great Northern began in 1893 to Seattle.

Hill effected a coalition of Great Northern and Northern Pacific to acquire the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Line. Much opposition to a depot on the waterfront was raised by local leaders - it would block off the waterfront. So finally Hill decided to bore a tunnel under the business district of Seattle. This was accomplished in 1902 - 05, and the King Street Station built at its south end. Hill also built the Great Northern docks at the north end of the waterfront to complete his plan for complete Orient connections. Southern cotton came West by rail, was loaded on ships to the Orient, and on the return brought silks. Seattle became the main shipping line and outlet.

The King Street Station remains an imposing structure in the industrial section of the city and a symbol of the might of rail transportation. It is one of the most important structures in that part of Seattle.

## 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hanford, C.H., Seattle and Environs. Chicago: Pioneer Historical Publishing Co., 1924.

## 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than one

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

## 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: <u>Margaret A. Corley, King County Liaison</u>		
ORGANIZATION: <u>Seattle Historical Society</u>	DATE: <u>July, 1969</u>	
STREET AND NUMBER: <u>2161 East Hamlin Street</u>		
CITY OR TOWN: <u>Seattle 98102</u>	STATE: <u>Washington</u>	CODE: <u>53</u>

## 12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

## NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☒ Local ☐

Name

Charles H. Odegaard  
Charles H. Odegaard

Title

Director - Washington State  
Parks & Recreation Commission

Date

March 26, 1973

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

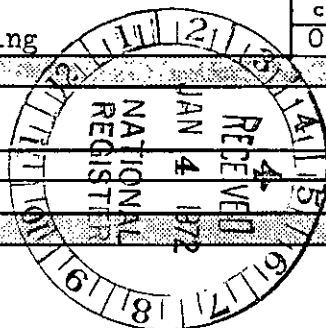
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM

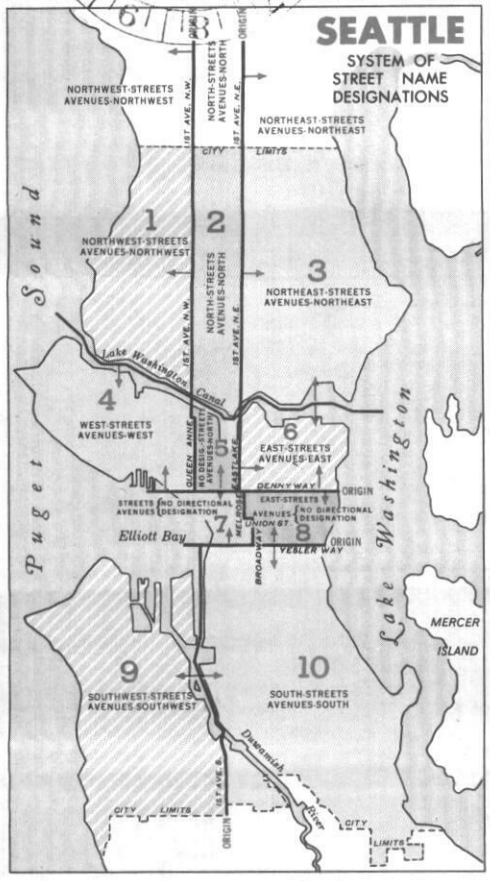
(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE <u>Washington</u>	
COUNTY <u>King</u>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>			
COMMON: <u>King Street Station</u>			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: <u>3rd South and South King Street</u>			
CITY OR TOWN: <u>Seattle, 98104</u>			
STATE: <u>Washington</u>	CODE <u>53</u>	COUNTY: <u>King</u>	CODE <u>033</u>
<b>3. MAP REFERENCE</b>			
SOURCE: <u>Standard Oil of California</u>			
SCALE: <u>one inch equals ca. 7/10 miles</u>			
DATE: <u>1970</u>			
<b>4. REQUIREMENTS</b>			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			





For ready reference, this map carries house numbers at intervals of five hundred numbers. The city is divided into TEN sections, and numbers increase in the direction indicated by arrows on the map above.

See enlarged-scale map above for area within this band  
King St. Station  
N47° 35' 56" Lat.  
W122° 19' 46" Long.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**  
**PROPERTY MAP FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

**1. NAME**

COMMON	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)
King Street Station		

**2. LOCATION**

STATE	COUNTY	TOWN
Washington	King	Seattle

STREET AND NUMBER

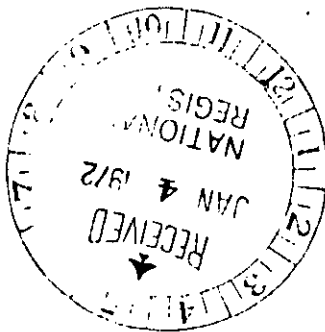
3rd South and South King Street

**3. MAP REFERENCE**

SOURCE	DATE	SCALE
U.S.G.S.-7.5 South Quad.	1949	1:24000

REQUIREMENTS: PROPERTY BOUNDARIES, WHERE REQUIRED, AND NORTH ARROW.

GPO 932-010



157° 11' NW  
(SHILSHOLE BAY)

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

UNITED  
DEPARTMENT  
CORPS OF

122° 22' 30"  
47° 37' 30"

548000m E

EVERETT  
MOUNTLAKE TERRACE IS

551 157  
(SEATTLE)

5274000m N

BM  
13

SEATTLE-PORT ANGELES-VICTORIA FERRY  
SEATTLE-WINSLOW FERRY  
SEATTLE-BREMERTON FERRY

ELLIOTT BAY

5272

5271

Tanks

WAY

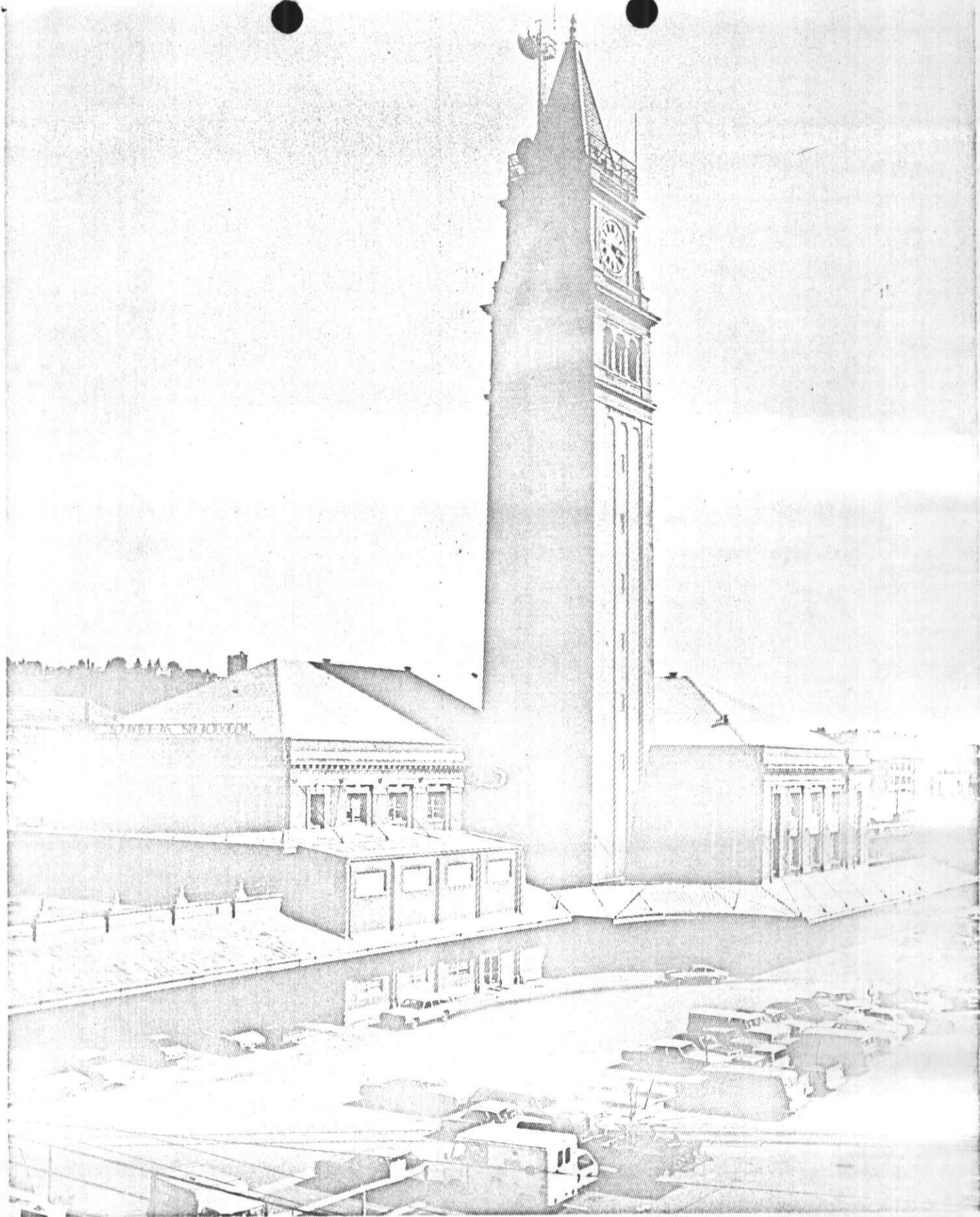
Seattle South  
7.5 min.  
1949

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

1. NAME		
COMMON	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)
King Street Station		
2. LOCATION		
STATE	COUNTY	TOWN
Washington	King	Seattle
STREET AND NUMBER		
3rd South and South King		
3. PHOTO REFERENCE		
PHOTO CREDIT	DATE	NEGATIVE FILED AT
Dept. of Comm. Devel. City of Seattle	July, 1972	Dept. of Comm. Develop., Municipal Bldg., Seattle
4. IDENTIFICATION		
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.		

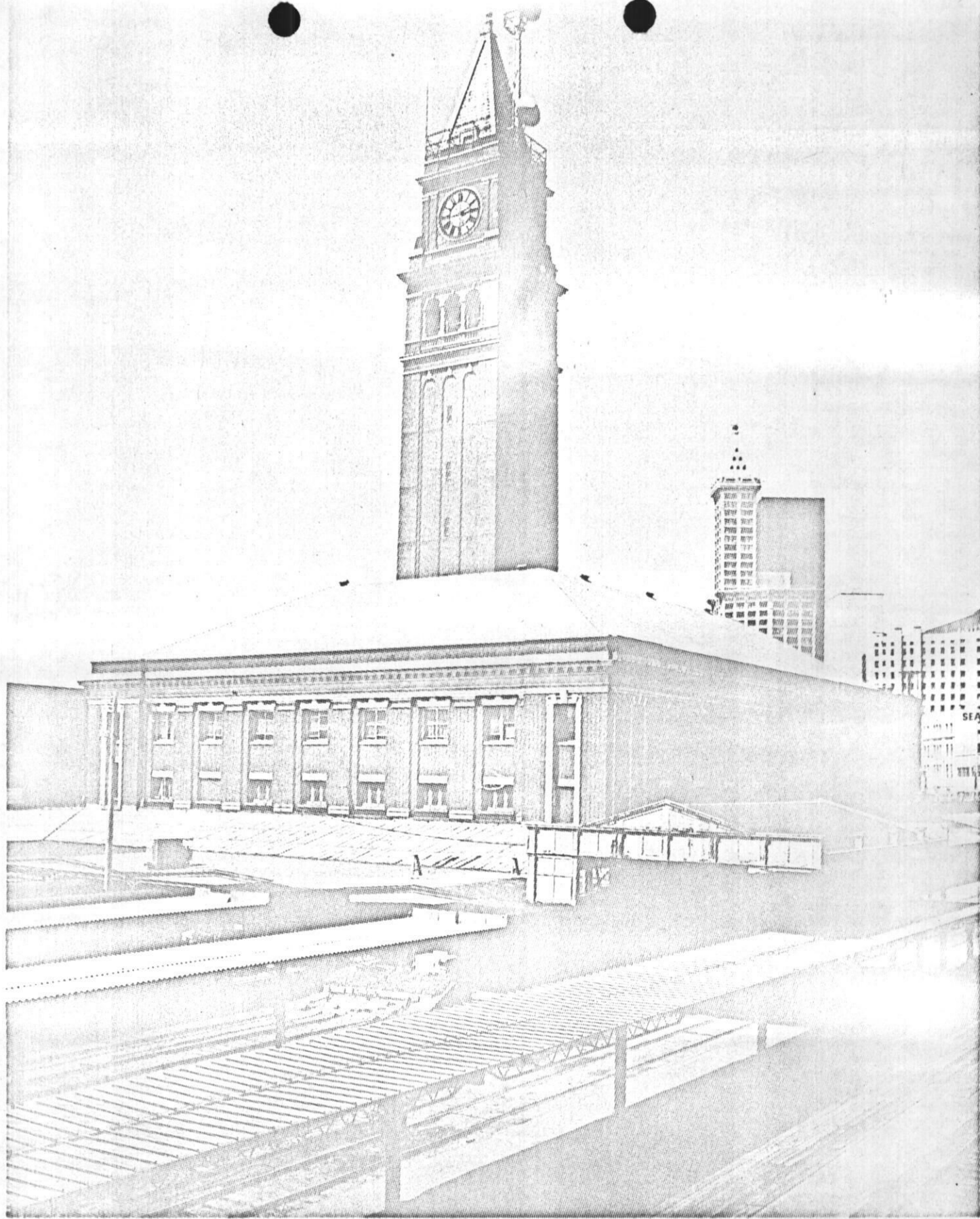
View looking southeast of the northwest corner of the station with lower level parking lot in foreground.



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM  
(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

1. NAME		
COMMON	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)
King Street Station		
2. LOCATION		
STATE	COUNTY	TOWN
Washington	King	Seattle
STREET AND NUMBER		
3d South and South King		
3. PHOTO REFERENCE		
PHOTO CREDIT	DATE	NEGATIVE FILED AT
Dept. of Comm. Devel. City of Seattle	July, 1972	Dept. of Comm. Devel. Municipal Bldg., Seattle
4. IDENTIFICATION		
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.		

View looking northwest toward central business district skyscrapers of the south and east sides of the station and some of the tracks on the east side of the structure.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

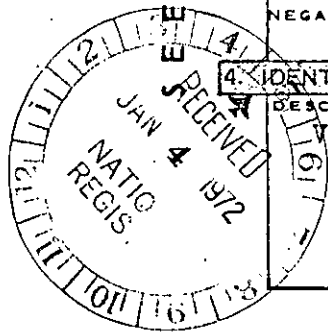
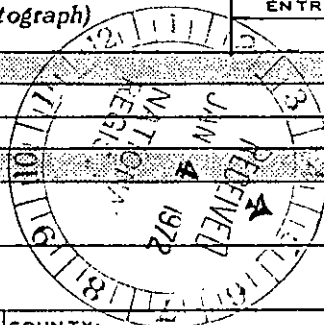
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

INSTRUCTIONS

STATE Washington	
COUNTY King	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME			
COMMON: King Street Station			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 3rd South and South King Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Seattle, 98104			
STATE: Washington	CODE 53	COUNTY: King	CODE 033
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: unknown publication			
DATE OF PHOTO: ca. 1906			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Seattle Historical Society			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. View south southwest of the north (front) facade and tower.			





# King Street Station

Seattle Post-Intelligencer  
July 18, 1971  
w/norm.  
#22 King Co

## Symbolizes 'Might of Rail Transportation'

BY DARRELL GLOVER

One of Seattle's best-known landmarks — the King Street Station — has been nominated as a state historic site.

Although the station is part of an area which is being considered as a city stadium site, present plans not call for its destruction.

The architecturally excellent structure was built in 1906 after Seattle became the terminus for the Northern Pacific and Great Northern railroads.

Mrs. Margaret Corley, who researched the building for its nomination, said the station "is a symbol of the might of rail transportation."

One of the architecturally significant aspects of the large building is the tower. It was derived from the original campanile in the Piazza de San Marco in Venice, Italy.

The building, designed by the architectural firm of Reed & Stem, is rectangular with the tower to the right when one faces the front. Built of red brick masonry, the structure has terra cotta and cast stone ornamentation and a tile roof.

The Smith Tower to the north of the station is a repeat of the station's tower and the two complement each other.

Interior of the station, which has been remodeled, has very high ceilings with massive columns that give an airy feeling to the huge waiting room.

The entrance to the sta-

tion is on the upper level away from the bustle and confusion and disorder of the lower level trains. Vehicles, however, can deliver passengers to the lower train level.

The station rises above the old tideflats on which the railroad tracks are built.

Making Seattle the terminus of Northern Pacific's transcontinental line was marked by years of controversy. Tacoma was made the terminus in 1873 and Seattle made many attempts to build its own branch connection to that line but failed.

Finally, in 1896, while Northern Pacific was under financial stress and deeply involved in litigation, a new corporation was formed. Northern Pacific acquired the Seattle, Lake Shore & Eastern Railroad running from Seattle to Sumas and Snoqualmie Falls, and Seattle finally became the terminus of the transcontinental railroad.

During this same period, the Great Northern Railroad was extended to the Coast over a northern route to Everett and came to Seattle along the waterfront from the north.

A coalition of Great Northern and Northern Pacific was brought about to acquire the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy lines. And Seattle became a main shipping line and outlet.

Cotton from the south was shipped to Seattle by rail and loaded onto ships to the

Orient. These ships returned laden with silks.

Building the King Street Station also was met by local opposition. Many Seattle leaders felt that the building of a depot on the waterfront would block it off from the rest of the city.

The railroad solved this problem, however, by boring a tunnel under the business district of Seattle for the railroad tracks.

Much of Seattle's past is linked to the sturdy King Street Station. Mrs. Corley said:

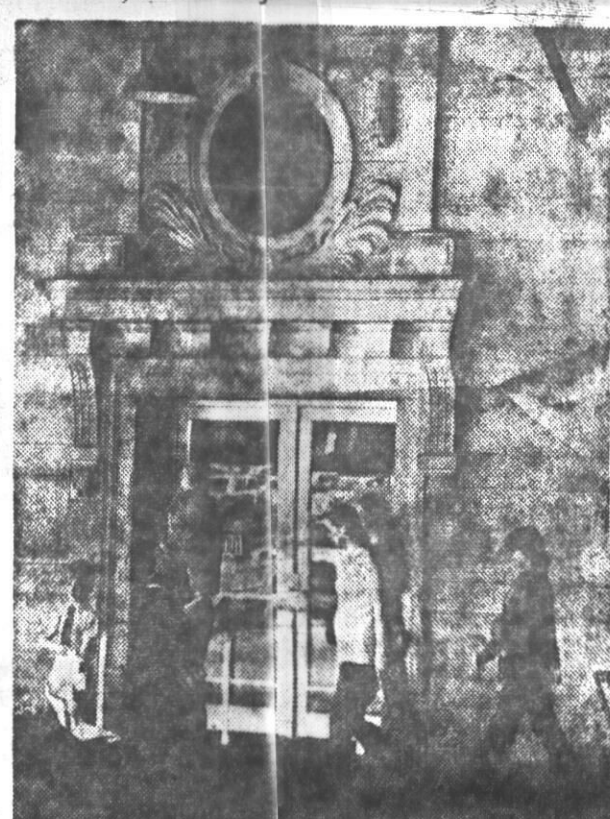
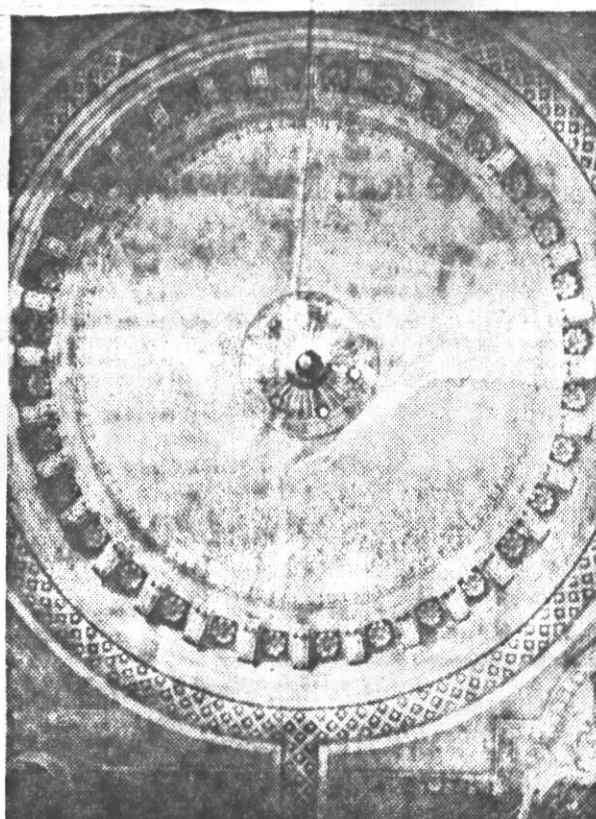
"The King Street Station remains an imposing structure in the industrial district section of the city."

"It is one of the most important structures in the past of Seattle."



—P-I Photos by Dave Potts.

KING STREET STATION IS HISTORIC SITE  
Termed "Symbol of Might"



ARCHITECTURAL DETAILS ON CEILINGS (CENTER), WALLS AND DOORWAYS ADD INTEREST TO BUILDING

Present stadium plans apparently would not disturb structure built in 1906